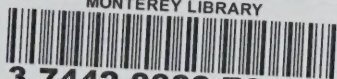


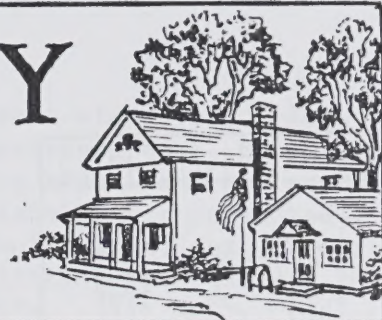
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MONTEREY NEWS



February, 1977

OUR TOWN

SPECIAL MEETING



Zoning By-Law Amendment

A goodly number of townspeople attended a special town meeting in the church social room on Saturday, January 22, at 10:00 a.m. The item which evoked the most discussion was Article 6, a proposed amendment to the town's zoning by-laws. The amendment, written by the Planning Board at the request of the Board of Selectmen, has as its purpose the regulation of the use of land in Monterey by non-municipal educational or religious institutions. In simple terms, the proposed amendment pertains to churches

and private schools, two categories which were not previously covered in the town's zoning by-laws.

This is the first step in a whole revision of Monterey's zoning by-laws undertaken by the Planning Board, in accordance with a directive from the state of Massachusetts, which has recently rewritten its own codes, giving authority and requirements for municipal zoning. The Monterey Selectmen, being aware of the inexpedient consequences of unrestricted use of town land by an educational or religious institution, felt the town should give priority to this aspect of zoning revision.

There was some confusion among those attending the meeting as to the specific applicability of the amended section. Camp owners were reassured that unless their operations are converted to year-round educational use they, being covered in another section of the zoning laws, are exempt from the proposed section. It was established that those institutions in Monterey which can be defined as non-municipal educational or religious organizations are the United Church of Christ, the Catholic Chapel, New England Keswick, Hephzibah Heights and Avalon School. Gould Farm, being essentially therapeutic, managed throughout the discussion to defy categorization. It was pointed out that the amendment has application not only to existing institutions but also to any land purchase by an organization of this kind in the future.

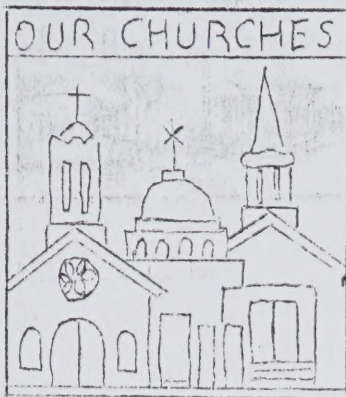
The vote in favor of the amendment was unanimous.

Emergency Permits for Buildings in Non-Conforming Uses

An important point was raised regarding the difficulties presented by zoning regulations in the event that an income-producing building is destroyed by fire or other catastrophe and must be rebuilt immediately. The requirements of site plans, impact studies and informational statements are both costly and time consuming. It is likely that a considerable loss of income would be sustained by the owners of a business, camp or other institution before the requirements preparatory to rebuilding could be met. It was moved, seconded and passed that the Planning Board and the Board of Appeals be instructed to develop a section in the zoning by-laws for emergency permits which would apply to these situations, or otherwise to conceive of a red-tape cutting procedures in the event of such emergencies.

Route 23 Upgrading

The Monterey Selectmen attended a meeting with the Department of Public Works in Lenox on February 9 to finalize plans by that department to make safety improvements along sections of Route 23. The DPW has awarded a contract to Petricca Construction Company of Pittsfield which calls for the erection of traffic islands and signs and pavement reconstruction at the intersection of Route 23 and 57 and the intersection of Route 23 and Blue Hill Road. These measures will improve visibility and drainage at both points. Work will begin in the spring. Other sections of Route 23, such as the stretch westward from the Alfred Mollé property to the Roadside Store, are badly in need of repair but are not mentioned in this specific contract.



CATHOLIC CHURCH

Immaculate Conception Church, Mill River -- Mass at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Morning worship each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
Notes Church School, grades 4-6, Sunday, 9:15 a.m.; Kindergarten, Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; grades 1-3, Wednesday, 3:00 p.m. The sacrament of baptism was received by Victor Trense on January 6. . . . New members received on January 6, Victor Trense and Thomas Thorn. . . . Associate members received on January 6, Linda Lathrop and Harriet M. Phillips.

Lenten Worship- Sermons

During Lent the worship and sermons are being based on questions and issues raised by the people of this congregation. These have now been studied and grouped, as far as possible, under six subjects. During Lent a group will be formed each week to study these subjects, along with some other questions and issues. Scriptures related to each subject have also been suggested. Announcements as to time and place of the study groups will be made.

We encourage many to participate in these study groups. The groups will then send their results to the pastor in the form of more questions, answers or other scriptures that come to mind.

Any person not able to participate in the study groups is encouraged to study alone and send his thoughts to the pastor.

The subjects, issues, questions and scriptures for each Sunday are as follows:

February 27 "HOW SHALL WE RESPOND WITH SO MANY VOICES CALLING?"

Issues and Questions: What about Jesus' claim, "I am the Way," in our age of religious and cultural pluralism? We are being challenged by Eastern and other religions. How do we deal with voices in our own culture: psychology, astrology, the occult all seeking to give us meaning and direction in life? Colossians 1:15-2:23

March 6 "LIFE AS A SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE"

Issues and Questions: Evidence of the "spiritual" basis of life coming at us from all sides: science seeing energy instead of matter; new discoveries now only deepening the mystery about life. Eastern religions making inroads in the West because of their spiritual assumptions. Within the Church new attention being given to prayer, meditation, mysticism, the charismatic, spiritual healing, spiritual guidance. How do we position ourselves in light of this new day of the spirit. I Corinthians 2:1-16

March 13 "GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT: OUR LIKENESSES AND OUR DIFFERENCES"

In receiving Christ the Holy Spirit comes as Guide and Comforter. How do we receive the gifts of prophecy, healing, tongues, special powers, interpretation, etc.? Are some gifts universal and others very individual? Do we play any part in the gifts we receive? I Corinthians 12:13, 14

March 20 "THE INDIVIDUAL: THE GROUP"

Issues and Questions: A dilemma -- we profoundly influence and are influenced by each other. Yet ultimately each person bears responsibility for his own life. We gather in the church seeking fellowship, encouragement, strength. Yet in the most fundamental parts of our humanity and of our faith, one person cannot do for another. The church provides fellowship. Can it also provide the medium for the individual to confront his God? I Corinthians 12:12-31 and Matthew 18:15-20

March 27 "OUR CRIES OF NEED: WHAT IS GOD DOING?"

Issues and Questions: We are lonely, separated, sick. We get "stuck" in defeating life patterns. We cry out to God in our need. Yet we feel things are going on still the same. Where is God? What is he doing? What can be the meaning of these needs? Where does it all lead? Psalms 73 and Romans 7:13-25

April 3 "BEARING WITNESS TO OUR FAITH"

Issues and Questions: Do we just live our faith? Or tell it? Or what? What about evangelism? Can faith really be shared or is this something each person must decide for himself? How does one respect the freedom of the other? In evangelism what is it one would share with another? Luke 10:1-12 and Acts 4:13-22

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOURSELF?

Through recent years I have come to believe that one of the most widespread crimes against our own humanity is the common practice of running ourselves down, belittling our powers, understating our worth. This is so common a thing that I am convinced it is a "stage" most of us have to pass through on the way to claiming our personhood. It would not be so much of a problem if it were a stage we could easily outgrow and soon be done with. Many, many of us get hung up in this belittling process, and unless we take appropriate measures it may follow us through life.

The evidence points toward our adopting the practice of self-denigration as a means of protecting ourselves. If I keep my head low, if I don't stand out from the crowd, then perchance I will not be shot down. It contains a curious mixture of a fear of being prideful and a recognition that we really should be humble. These seem worthy reasons, yet the real quality of our humanity gets short-circuited in the process. We come off neither escaping the pitfalls of pride nor achieving the grace of humility.

Recently I had occasion to note similar qualities that showed up in the stories regarding the call of the prophet Jeremiah and the account of Jesus on his first return to his home town of Nazareth after news of his early successes had come back to the place where he grew up.

When the call to fulfill a special mission came to Jeremiah he began to protest, "Ah, Lord God, I do not know how to speak; I am only a child." Jeremiah was instructed to get off this false humility trip and stand up like the man that he was with "authority over nations and kingdoms, to pull down and uproot, to destroy and demolish, to build and to plant." Jeremiah never became a bulldozer type of person. He was keenly aware of his weaknesses, yet he lived as a strong man. He lived in a time of vast uncertainty, yet he walked and talked as one who believed in himself and in what he was called to do.

When Jesus went back to Nazareth his ministry was probably only a few weeks or months old. News of his teaching and healing got back to the home town before he did. Now he was home. It was the Sabbath and he was in the synagogue. He was given the scroll of Isaiah to read. He selected these words:

"The spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he has sent me to announce good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the broken go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

So far, so good. A fine scripture. A lovely thing to hope for. The bombshell came when Jesus announced, "Today in your very hearing these words have become true." He claimed Isaiah's words as his own intention and purpose. After that things were never the same again for Jesus in his home town. Though there was not a shred of pride or arrogance in Jesus, the story does give some understanding of why many people assume the only safe way to go through life is with a low profile.

Unlike Jeremiah and Jesus, most of us try to go through life being rather anonymous and unspecific. We imagine we honor life and God by claiming to be nobody -- at least nobody of any real value or importance. This is the lie we try to get ourselves and others to believe. By this means we undercut and betray the real value that was given to us with our humanity.

I use Jeremiah and Jesus as examples precisely because there is a tendency for people to claim something of a religious ground for this mistaken form of humility. They were both humble, but they did not allow their humility to cripple them. They did not imagine they would honor God by claiming to be nobody. Neither did they shirk responsibility by holding back, waiting until someone more richly endowed came along.

The roadway of humanity becomes clogged with people who are waiting for some genius to come along. We fail to recognize ourselves as a part of the stream of genius that is continually poured into humanity. There is a tragedy that runs through history, showing itself in each generation. It runs like this. Some person arises like a Moses or a Jesus. Grace and truth shine through that person. Disciples gather. They begin to slavishly repeat that truth, set up organizations to preserve it. Yet the more they try to preserve it in unchanging forms, the more dead and lifeless becomes the expression of the truth. We try to preserve greatness in unchanging forms. Under such treatment it must always wither. The only way greatness can be preserved is in persons like you and me. Each of us was meant to be a channel of grace and truth. There is no person in all the earth who can tell you or me exactly how that grace and truth are to make their appearance in the world. Their appearance, in some distinct respects, will be unique in each one of us.

I send this message out as a protest. Beyond the shadow of a doubt the world is being cheated out of a great amount of "fire," light, truth, grace. Why? Simply because most of us have been sitting on the lid of our own vital forces, claiming to be nobody, or nobody of much importance. I send this message out as an encouragement. Won't you begin to experiment with the fire, light, truth and grace that are trying to gain expression through you?

Virgil V. Brallier, Minister
Monterey United Church of Christ



A quarterly directors' meeting was held at the Farm on January 29. Thirteen members of the Board were present, as well as the Executive Director and the Treasurer. A few associate members of the corporation also attended. Mrs. Gwen Will, of the Berkshire Mental Health Center in Pittsfield, a newly elected director, came to the meeting and was cordially welcomed. The Rev. Virgil Brallier presided. His resignation from the Board, after two terms as president, was at last reluctantly accepted. The Rev. Paul Kennedy, director of synod development for the Lutheran Church in America, was unanimously chosen president. Mr. Kennedy lives in Ridgefield, Connecticut,

with his wife and three children, and has his office in New York City. He has been a member of the Board for many years, and was chairman of the search committee following the Rev. Hampton Price's retirement as Executive Director in 1972. This was the committee that selected Kent Smith to succeed Mr. Price.

An executive committee of seven was formed to act for the Board when necessary, between meetings. It is composed of: Dr. David Balderston, Dr. James Bell, Col. Lawren Bolvig, David Colt, Matthew J. Dempsey, Jr., H. B. Pearl and Robert Wheeler. Kent Smith gave an informative, in-depth verbal report on chief concerns since the October meeting. The Treasurer's report showed that, for the first time in many years, the books closed with a deficit. This was due mainly to rising costs. It was voted by the Board to increase the rate of room and board for those who can meet this figure.

The next meeting will be on May 21. An associates' meeting may be held that morning and an Open House for Berkshire friends the following day. This would be at the new guest residence, which we hope will be fully occupied long before that date. The meeting ended with an expression of appreciation to Dr. Brallier for his years of close interest and concern.

A new three-months' volunteer worker, Lauren Hassol, came in January. Her home is in Newton Centre, Massachusetts. She will graduate in June from Antioch College with a B.A. in Social Work and Political Science.

Rose McKee

THE PHILERGIANS

The Philergians met at 8:00 p.m. on February 7 at the home of Marie Brallier, fifteen members attending.

It was a joy to receive a warm and nostalgic letter from Ann Van Horn Porter, who misses Monterey and her friends here.

Announcement was made of the coming availability of Community College courses, both academic and vocational, to be offered to senior citizens in Great Barrington.

The Growth Group, which has been led for two years by Dr. Brallier, and which was originated by the Philergians, has fulfilled its purpose and is not now functioning.

"Bon Voyage" wishes were extended to our travelers, Gertrude Gould and Helen Shaw, as they embark on a round-the-world cruise by freighter this week.

The evening's enthusiastic entertainment consisted of a teacup auction, which netted approximately \$20.00.

Delicious herb teas and a variety of goodies were served to top off a most enjoyable evening.

Evelyn Chamberlain
Secretary

LADIES' AID

The Ladies' Aid will meet in the church social room on Thursday, February 17, at 1:30 p.m. Margery Janes will serve coffee and light refreshments.

As has been our custom, we plan to roll bandages and prepare gowns for use in hospitals. A hearty welcome awaits new members and visitors at these friendly and useful monthly gatherings.

Lucy Smith
Chairman

NEW MARLBOROUGH-MONTEREY PTA

We will shortly announce the spring meeting and plans for the spring Open House.

The ski program has been enlarged by the addition of some pre-schoolers, who are enjoying it immensely. Snow conditions have been especially good this year.

Cynthia Weber
President



BOY SCOUTS

Cub Scouts

Cub Dens 1 and 2 continue to practice ice skating and sledding at Gould Farm. In addition, they plan to visit the Great Barrington Ambulance Squad for a tour of the ambulances, as well as instruction in emergency calls. The Cubs will be in charge of the opening flag ceremony for the Pack Meeting, February 18, at the Town Hall, Mill River, at 7:30 p.m.

Webelos

The Webelos have completed three out of four projects toward their Craftsman Badge. The boys have made billfolds, knife holders,

screwdriver holders and belts out of leather. In March they will be working with Bob Gauthier on their Woodworking Badge.

GIRL SCOUTS

Brownies

In January the Brownies finished making three kinds of bird feeders: suet holders, logs drilled for caches of peanut butter and dowel perches and Chlorox bottles cut out to be filled with sunflower seeds. This month the girls are making Valentine cookies and during vacation week they will attend a skating party in Lenox involving all area Girl Scouts.

Cadettes

The Cadette Scouts will be practicing First Aid Saturday night with Mrs. Carl Bynack, in order to be in readiness for their first emergency preparedness challenge. This challenge will take the form of a surprise "emergency situation" set up by their leader, Jane Thorn, during which the girls will be expected to give First Aid and comfort, as well as to transport the injured person to a point where he may receive professional medical attention.

4-H NEWS

Monterey Roadrunners

The Monterey Roadrunners 4-H Horse Club had their monthly meeting on February 8. Plans were made for a get-together in the coming month. This would be a swimming party, or something of that nature. Kristine Heath will look into this and report to the club at the next meeting, which will be on March 8. Plans for a hay ride are still in the works, although we will have to wait for warmer weather. Those 4-H members that did not attend the Achievement Night ceremonies were given their calendars and awards at the February 8 meeting.

Kristine Heath
Junior Leader

G.I.V.E.

G.I.V.E. -- Get Into Volunteer Education -- is the title of a program commencing as of today in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. The Parents Advisory Committee of the District has undertaken to solicit volunteers of all ages, skills, professions and trades who are willing to give of their free time to enrich the learning and activities of the District's school children. Guest lecturers, tutors, "big brothers and sisters" -- all are needed in the five towns and nine school buildings of the District.

Citizens who are interested are asked to telephone the Principal's Office, Mt. Everett Regional School, Sheffield or any of the following members of the Parents Advisory Committee: Mrs. R. Cote, Sheffield; Mrs. W. Friedman, Sheffield; Mrs. D. Siegel, North Egremont; Mrs. J. Swan, Clayton.

Non-residents of the District are also most welcome in the program.

Rosemarie D. Siegel

TOO, LOOK AT YOUTH

'Tis said the race is to the swift,
But what of all the runners dead?
What baton dangles in the lonely place?
There is no further lap,
No celebration.
Where's Gilead?

Björn Jenssen

THOUGHTS ON A WINTER MORNING

I yearn for the dawn of springtime when apple buds unfold
And the first song of the bluebird brings a happiness untold,
When the robin sings at daybreak, and the sun sends down its rays,
And my heart is filled with longing for approaching springtime days.

Eleanor Kimberley

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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